

**From:** "Interactions.org News Wire" <newswire@interactions.org>  
**Subject:** [Interactions News Wire] #37-07 - STFC: Time-travellers and the Big Bang  
**Date:** July 5, 2007 3:58:12 AM CDT  
**To:** InteractionsNewsWire@interactions.org

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Interactions News Wire #37-07  
5 July 2007 <http://www.interactions.org>

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Source: STFC  
Content: Press Release  
Date Issued: 4 July 2007  
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**\*\*Webcast available\*\***

A time-traveller arrived at an experiment dedicated to studying the Big Bang and the mysteries of the Universe recently and a log of his travel is now available.

John Barrowman, aka time-traveller Captain Jack from BBC television series Doctor Who and Torchwood visited CERN – the world's largest physics experiment. At CERN, scientists are preparing the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), an experiment that will recreate conditions last seen fractions of a second after the Big Bang in order to understand how the Universe came to be as it is today.

Barrowman was given a behind-the-scenes tour of this unique facility and gave his impressions in the first of a series of podcasts from CERN that will chart the path to finishing the LHC and share the results that will give us a new understanding of the Universe.

Barrowman said "It's nice to be able to see where all these questions that we have hopefully one day will be answered"

"And its nice to know that the scientists, the guys and girls who work here, still have questions too. No one knows the answer, that's the good thing... except Captain Jack!"

Barrowman's visit was filmed and can be seen online on YouTube (<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=BxI9pA3CudQ>) or on the STFC website.

The podcast, funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council which also funds the UK subscription to CERN, is the brain-child of Dr Brian Cox, from the University of Manchester. Brian is a physicist with a passion for sharing his work, appearing on This Morning and acting as scientific consultant on the blockbuster movie Sunshine.

Brian said "I passionately believe that everyone is interested in the answers to the fundamental questions explored by the LHC - questions about the origins and fundamental building blocks of our world. The challenge for a podcast is to convey this excitement to as wide an audience as possible. We aim to do this by inviting guests to CERN who are able to communicate their sense of wonder at the immensity of the endeavour to a wide range of people. Who better to begin the series with than John Barrowman? His appeal, particularly amongst fans of Dr Who and Torchwood, will open up our work at CERN to a new young audience."

Notes for Editors

Images and the Webcast can be accessed on the Council's website at <http://www.scitech.ac.uk/PMC/PReI/STFC/Barrowman2.aspx>

The four minute video of 'Captain Jack's visit can also be viewed on YouTube <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=BxI9pA3CudQ>

Podcast – the LHC Podcast be downloaded free from iTunes (sign up to automatically get future LHC Podcasts) and from <http://www.cernpodcast.com/>

Other links

For more on the LHC, visit <http://www.lhc.ac.uk>

John Barrowman's official website  
<http://www.johnbarrowman.com/>

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Science and Technology Facilities Council

The Science and Technology Facilities Council ensures the UK retains its leading place on the world stage by delivering world-class science; accessing and hosting international facilities; developing innovative technologies; and increasing the socio-economic impact of its research through effective knowledge-exchange partnerships.

The Council has a broad science portfolio including Astronomy, Particle Physics, Particle Astrophysics, Nuclear Physics, Space Science, Synchrotron Radiation, Neutron Sources and High Power Lasers. In addition the Council manages and operates three internationally renowned laboratories:

- The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire
- The Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire
- The UK Astronomy Technology Centre, Edinburgh

The Council gives researchers access to world-class facilities and funds the UK membership of international bodies such as the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN), the Institute Laue Langevin (ILL), European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), the European organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO) and the European Space Agency (ESA). It also contributes money for the UK telescopes overseas on La Palma, Hawaii, Australia and in Chile, and the MERLIN/VLBI National Facility, which includes the Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank Observatory.

The Council distributes public money from the Government to support scientific research. Between 2007 and 2008 we will invest £610 million.

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